

2
TWELFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY,

WITH

A LIST OF ITS OFFICERS,

Constitution, By-Laws, &c.



PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY I. ASHMEAD & CO.

1839. -

TRACTS DISTRIBUTED.

ENGLISH TRACTS.

October—No. 377. Sixty Reasons for Attending Public Worship.
November—No. 348. Pequod of 100 Years.
December—No. 157. Address to parents of Sunday-school Children.
January—The New Year.
February—No. 386. Miss Harriet Patterson.
March—No. 225. Do you want a Friend.
April—No. 252. Necessity of Repentance.
May—No. 8. The Lord's day.
June—No. 14. Peace to the Troubled.
July—No. 389. Do you Forgive all your Enemies?
August—No. 26. Sin, no trifle.
September—No. 298. Whole Family in Heaven.

GERMAN TRACTS.

October—No. 60. Voice from Heaven.
November—No. 47. Without Holiness no Man shall see the Lord.
December—No. 59. A Word for the Bible.
January—No. 8. Common Errors.
February—No. 20. Great Question Answered.
March—No. 39. Worth of the Soul.
April—No. 35. Subjects for Consideration.
May—No. 2. Remember the Sabbath Day.
June—No. 48. Two Ends and Two Ways.
July—No. 54. Who Slew all these.
August—No. 75. Quench not the Spirit.
September—No. 92. I am an Infidel.

FRENCH TRACTS.

October—No. 23. Traveller's Farewell.
November—No. 29. Message from God.
December—No. 16. The Two Ways.
January—No. 13. The Orphan.
February—No. 9. The Swiss Peasant.
March—No. 32. Conversion of Baron Dyhern.
April—No. 10. The Veteran.
May—No. 18. Common Errors.
June—No. 8. The Chimney Sweep.
July—No. 42. Incomparable Friend.
August—No. 43. Converted Sailor.
September—No. 31. Walk near Loche.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY was held in the Church of which the Rev. Dr. Wylie is pastor, on Tuesday evening, Sept. 24th, the President in the chair.

The services of the evening were commenced by singing a part of the 19th Psalm, followed with prayer by the Rev. JOSEPH H. JONES, of the Presbyterian Church in this city, and the Report of the proceedings of the Society for the past year was presented and read by the Rev. WILLIAM H. BIDWELL.

Appropriate and impressive Addresses were made by the Rev. JOHN TODD, of the Congregational Church, Philadelphia; by the Rev. J. N. DANFORTH, Alexandria; and the Rev. R. S. COOKE, of New York.

The meeting was closed with the following hymn :

O Zion tune thy voice,
And raise thy hands on high;
Tell all the earth thy joys,
And sing salvation nigh.

Cheerful in God,
Arise and shine,
While rays divine
Stream all abroad.

In honour to his name,
Reflect that sacred light;
And loud that grace proclaim,
Which makes thy darkness bright.

Pursue his praise,
Till sovereign love
In worlds above
To glory raise.

The exercises on this occasion were all of a very interesting character, but the audience much less numerous than has been usual heretofore ; and it is a matter much to be regretted, that the taste and feelings of the Christian community are such, that unless something new and strange is to be exhibited, a very large attendance may not be expected.

It would seem by the statements contained in the report and made by the gentlemen who addressed the meeting, that the system of Tract distribution, connected with Missionary labour, aims at nothing less than to bring our whole population under the influence of the Gospel ; and if these operations were carried out as they should be, *would bring every child into the Sabbath school, supply every destitute family with a copy of the Holy Scriptures, and bring every man and woman to be a regular attendant on the preaching of the Gospel.*

To effect all this great work but two things seem to be needful, *labour and prayer* combined—*untiring, systematic, and persevering* LABOUR ; *constant, believing* PRAYER.

From the Treasurer's Report it appears, that although the receipts of the Society from all sources rather exceed those of the preceding years, being \$6352 46, yet \$600 were borrowed to enable the Board to keep their Missionaries in the field ; and it is hoped that the friends of this cause will remember how exceedingly important it is that they should promptly come forward with their accustomed liberality, unless they are willing that all our efforts should be abandoned, and vice and iniquity be left to sweep from us every thing we hold dear.

It may be interesting to state, that between seven and eight hundred dollars of the funds raised by the Philadelphia Tract Society the past year, was received from the several Female Tract Societies and other female friends, whose attachment to this cause, and their kind and generous efforts, not only in obtaining funds, but also labouring as Tract Visitors, demands our grateful acknowledgments. Indeed, as it regards the laborious and self-denying work of Tract distribution, were it not for the ladies it must soon cease ; yea, doubtless long ere this, would have been given up in despair.

Officers of the Philadelphia Tract Society.

M. W. BALDWIN, *President.*

Vice Presidents.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. C. C. CUYLER, D. D. | Rev. J. A. CLARK, |
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| “ JOHN NICHOLSON, | “ JOHN COLEMAN. |

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| | |
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| John Lapsley, | A. G. Miller, |
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| Dr. Wm. Perrine, | J. M. Van Harlingen, |
| William Dulty, | Oliver Brooks, |
| Archelaus Flint, | J. S. Cummings, |
| R. W. Davenport, | Jacob Sellers, |
| J. M. Harper, | Charles Williams, |
| Dr. L. P. Gebhard, | Levi Eldridge. |
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Robert Earp,

Rev. W. H. Bidwell,
Winthrop Cunningham,
William Dulty.

Committee on Criminal and Humane Institutions.

Robert Earp,
A. Flint,

J. M. Paul,
E. J. Yard,

John Alexander,
Charles Collins.

Committee on Shipping on the Delaware.

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R. W. Davenport,

Capt. H. Lelar,
Oliver Brooks,

Isaac Dunton,
Jacob Sellers.

Committee on Canal Boats and Shipping on the Schuylkill.

Winthrop Sargent,

John Harned,

L. Harwood.

Committee on Monthly Distributions.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| New Market Ward— | D. W. Prescott, 12 South Water street. |
| Cedar | do. J. S. Cummings, Vine above Twelfth street. |
| Pine | do. J. Marshall Paul, corner of Pine and Clinton streets. |
| Locust | do. Martin Thayer, 23 Girard street. |
| South | do. Winthrop Sargent, cor. of Chestnut and Schuy. 4th. |
| Dock | do. John M. Harper, corner of Fifth and Commerce sts. |
| Walnut | do. A. Flint, 20 Sansom street. |
| Chestnut | do. James Dunlap, 55 North Second street. |
| Middle | do. John Harned, Market below Eleventh. |
| High | do. Wm. Dulty, 69 North Tenth. |
| North | do. W. Bradley, Orphan Asylum. |
| N. Mulberry | do. Robert Earp, 17 Montgomery Square. |
| S. Mulberry | do. Wm. Harned, 471 Market street. |
| U. Delaware | do. Jacob Sellers, 38 Market street. |
| L. Delaware | do. Joseph Schriner, Julianna above Wood. |
| Spring Garden, | A. G. Roland, 15 Madison street. |
| Northern Liberties, | A. Z. Bardin, 255 North Seventh. |
| East Kensington, | Rev. J. G. Maxwell, Beach street near the Market. |
| West Kensington, | Rev. W. E. Cornwell, 11 Ellen street. |
| East Southwark, | John Summers, Washington st. below Carpenter. |
| West Southwark, | Rev. N. S. Harris, Library street, near the Bank. |
| East Moyamensing, | G. W. Lott, 136 South Ninth street. |
| West Moyamensing, | W. Cunningham, 30 South Wharves. |
| Fair Mount, | A. G. Roland. |

Missionaries.

Rev. W. E. Cornwell,
A. G. Roland,

John Summers,
A. Z. Bardin.

REPORT.

IN presenting their Twelfth Annual Report, the Board of Managers of the Philadelphia Tract Society desire to record, with devout gratitude to God, that by the continuance of his blessing, their labours in his cause have not been in vain. Their feeble efforts to do good have been crowned with success. The word of God is still quick and powerful—the blood of Atonement is still efficacious, and the Holy Spirit is still present to apply it with saving energy to the consciences and hearts of men. Prayer is still heard, and the Tract Missionary and Visiter have gone forth bearing precious seed and returned again bringing their sheaves with them. The experience of another year furnishes additional testimony to the utility of tract distribution, and cheering encouragement to the friends of the Redeemer to persevere in their labours of love.

But though something has been done, yet *very much* remains to be accomplished. Sin still exerts a controlling power—the tide of iniquity still flows, and multitudes are moving on its broad current towards the abyss of ruin. The preciousness of redemption, the worth of souls, and the glory of God, call impressively on the friends of Christ, for more zealous efforts, for greater diligence and self-denial in the promotion of that cause which is so dear to the heart of the Redeemer.

Another year of this Society has terminated. The history of its doings, its efforts, faithful or unfaithful in the cause for which the Saviour died, has gone on record to be reviewed at the judgment.

The monthly distribution of tracts and visitation has been maintained with more or less fidelity during the past year. Still the exigencies of our field demand a more extended plan of operations, and the enlistment of many more helpers to labour in the wide field of moral desolation and death, which lies spread around us.

This Society, composed as it is of seven Christian denominations, ought to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Enlisted, as its members are, in a glorious cause, under the great Captain of Salvation, they may go forth in his name and strength, rescue captives from the thralldom of sin, and gather the ruined and wandering into the fold of Christ.

The Board deem it important again to refer to the destitution and wants of the city. Of more than 200,000 inhabitants, which dwell in the city and liberties, not less than 120,000 find no place in the sanctuary of God on the Sabbath. They hear not the gospel from the living ministry. The voice of him that bringeth good tidings reaches not their ears. Here, then, are more than 100,000 immortal beings rolling like an impetuous tide, from the *midst of a Christian city*, into the abyss of *ruin*. From the sanctuary of God—from the living ministry and the blessed ordinances of grace, these thousands are separated by their condition and habits, which interpose a strong barrier. The redemption of their souls is infinitely precious. They possess immortal minds. They may be saved. Sanctified by grace, they may ere long, and forever, walk the crystal pavements of heaven. For them the Saviour bled and died. And through the efforts and prayers of his people, they may become jewels to deck his crown. But if *saved*, the gospel must be *carried* to them, or they will never get it. But *how* shall it go? The gospel has neither *feet* nor *wings*. But if *this Society* will become feet and wings to the gospel, *then* may it scale every barrier, and carry into many a dark habitation of sin and guilt, the cheering influences of pardon and salvation. *Affectionately would we entreat our brethren* in Christ, to contemplate these throngs crowding their way down to eternal death. Think of the *end* of their dark *career* so soon to come. *Now* is the harvest time. The field is white, but the labourers are few.

More Tract Visitors are needed.

For want of them many districts in the city, during the past year, were neglected and unvisited. One esteemed superintendent, in the absence of *some*, and for the *want of more* visitors, carried the tract with *his own hand* to the doors of 1750 families. Many districts are so large as to need the labours of *two* faithful visitors. A *Christian* is, or should be, an imitator of Christ, who went about doing good. And if the destitute in this city are to be brought to the house of God, and under the sound of the gospel, a *host* of professing Christians must engage in the work. Let them put on the livery of the Saviour—buckle on his armour, and come forth with the sword of the Spirit in hand ready for his service.

We need *faithful* visitors, deeply imbued with the spirit of Christ, patient, untiring in their efforts, armed with holy fortitude and courage to go alone into the by-paths of sin, to approach the thoughtless in the world of fashion, and with a face set like a flint in the stern discharge of duty, faithfully admonish, exhort, plead the cause of God and the soul; and if need be, to encounter opposition and scorn, and take it meekly, and bow the head and rejoice to suffer shame for the cause of Jesus. With a *full band* of such visitors, strong in faith and holy in love, impressed with a deep conviction of the value and danger of the soul, how would converts be multiplied, and God be honoured, and his grace magnified! How would this city echo with the songs of joy and gladness from new-born souls!

On *such* visitors *thus* engaged, the eye of God will look with peculiar complacency, and though they meet with trials, yet their reward shall be great in heaven.

Plan of Operations.

The system of operations adopted by the Board is still pursued; of marking out the field into 29 general divisions, which are subdivided into 470 districts. Each general division to be under the care of a superintendent, and each district under the care of one or more visitors. This system will prove far more efficient, and its results far more gratifying, if, as the Board *earnestly* hope, the

friends of the Redeemer will come up in goodly numbers and strength, and occupy these posts of duty and sustain the cause which promises so much glory to God and good to souls.

In this field of labour four missionaries have been employed during the year past, in the more destitute portions of the city, superintending the monthly distribution, aiding and counselling the visitors, attending meetings for prayer and exhortation, conversing with the impenitent, instructing the ignorant, guiding inquirers to the Saviour, visiting the sick and dying, and supplying, as far as possible, the temporal wants of the poor and distressed. The results of all that has been done, we shall know but very partially, until the great Lord and Master shall come to take an account of the labours of his servants, and render to every one according to his work.

From the reports of the missionaries and tract visitors, it would appear that during the year, nearly 200 persons have, through this instrumentality, been awakened to a serious concern for their souls' salvation ; and there is reason to hope, that a large majority of them have, by the gracious influences of the Holy Spirit, been born into the kingdom of the Redeemer, and numbered among the trophies of his grace. Three hundred and twenty-six families have been found destitute and supplied with the Bible, and not far from 1000 children engaged for the Sabbath schools.

Amount of Distribution.

One hundred and forty-six thousand pages of tracts have been put in circulation monthly by the visitors.

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| Amounting during the year to | 1,752,000 | pages. |
| There have been distributed among the shipping and boatmen | 22,360 | “ |
| In the criminal and humane institutions | 38,720 | “ |
| To the Rev. Mr. Allen of the City Mission, for distribution | 20,600 | “ |
| For gratuitous distribution in various parts of the county | 42,360 | “ |
| Sales to societies and individuals, including the bound volumes, | 3,472,065 | “ |

Making the whole amount of issues of this Society, during the past year, 5,277,045 pages.

Some of this precious seed may, indeed, have fallen among thorns or in stony places, but we believe that much of it has fallen on good ground, that, quickened by the Spirit of God, it will bring fruit to perfection and give joy in heaven.

Encouragements.

From the interesting monthly reports we select a few facts as evidence of the Divine favour, and of the value of the tract cause.

A missionary reports the case of an elderly man who now gives evidence of conversion to God. He dates his first serious impressions from reading the tract "Quench not the Spirit." He says he could not sleep the night after reading it; and continued in great distress of mind till it pleased the Lord to reveal himself as one able and willing to save unto the uttermost.

A visiter says, a young woman in his district was awakened by reading a tract. She was brought to feel her perishing need of a Saviour. After several months of great distress she found joy and peace in believing.

One of the missionaries visited and conversed with a family rich in this world's goods, but destitute of the one thing needful. They had *no religion*. His first conversation with them seemed to produce but little effect on their minds. Afterwards, when the Lord afflicted them, their hearts were impressed, their feelings changed, and now *two* of the daughters are rejoicing in hope.

Another visiter says, a woman for whom she felt a deep interest died in November. When the visiter first met her she was living without God and without hope. She was laid on a bed of sickness. It was, to her, the bed of death. Then it was that she was awakened to realise her danger. She was directed to the Great Physician, and before her death, gave evidence of a saving change.

In connexion with this, two conversions are reported by the blessing of God, on reading the tract, "The Day of Trial."

Another missionary says: I have had the privilege of standing by the death-bed of a poor coloured woman, to whom I have regularly distributed tracts, and hear her dying testimony to the goodness and mercy of God. She felt willing to die, and assured that her departing spirit would go to Jesus. She ascribed her conversion, under God, to the reading of the tract, "The Pequod of an Hundred Years."

Said a visiter in his monthly visit: It seemed to me as if the Holy Spirit had gone before me. I met with a glad reception from almost every family, and found three persons anxious about their souls' salvation. I have much reason to bless God for the *tract distribution*, said one, for it was the reading of a tract received from a visiter, that led me to repentance, and humbly to hope for a place among the redeemed of the Lord.

With gratitude to God, says another visiter, I am able to report the hopeful conversion of one for whom I felt a deep interest. She saw the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and felt her need of atoning blood. She is now rejoicing in hope.

A missionary reports the conversion of a man who has a family. For five or six years previous to the tract visiter's calling on him, he had not been in the house of God, nor any of his family. His wife was first brought in; she then began to plead with God for the conversion of her husband, and when almost in despair of it, he was awakened,—commenced the worship of God in his family, and now gives evidence of a saving change.

A number of persons are reported as awakened by reading the New Year's Tract.

A lady in one family told the visiter that all its members were pious except herself and one child. She was afraid she had sinned away her day of grace, and was beyond the reach of mercy. She was directed to the word and promises of God. The visiter prayed with her, and at the next visit found her rejoicing in the hope of an interest in Christ.

Among the reports we find frequent accounts of the dreadful ravages of intemperance in various parts of the city. We record one instance. The mother of an interesting family informed the

visiter, that at the time of her marriage she was in possession of \$40,000; that her husband was respected and in good business. But alas! the monster intemperance had blasted their prospects, wrung their hearts with anguish, and with ruthless hand had torn away their fair inheritance, and that now she and her daughters were reduced to the necessity of earning their bread by binding shoes.

Other cases of severe suffering and distress are reported from the same cause, where the father had become a terror to his family, his poor wife and wretched children often times obliged to fly from their dwelling to escape the effects of his madness.

The following interesting fact should encourage the friends of tract distribution in their work. Some months since, says a visiter, I left, with a young lady, the tract entitled, "Without Holiness no Man shall see the Lord." She laid it on the table. The man of the house attempted to put it in the fire. She begged him not to do it, as she wished to read it. She took it to her chamber, and while reading it the Lord fastened conviction on her mind. She looked for pardon to the Lamb of God, and hopes she found joy and peace in believing. Soon after both the man and his wife became alarmed in view of their sins, and inquired what they must do to be saved? The young lady endeavoured to direct them in the path of duty, and now all the three are members of evangelical churches. Three immortal souls hopefully converted to God by means of one tract!

Says the superintendent of a ward who has himself visited several hundred families: The poor and the ignorant express their gratitude and thankfulness for the instruction and comfort which they receive in reading the monthly tracts. Most of the visitors in this ward, as well as in the others, seem to have laboured with fidelity and perseverance, and have reported many pleasing and interesting facts.

From the report of one of our missionaries for the present year, we learn that in his district, composing 2350 families, he has circulated during the year, in connexion with thirty-four tract visitors, 30,640 tracts, held 432 prayer meetings, supplied 74 families with the Bible, obtained 100 children for the Sabbath-school, (now con-

taining 200 children taught by tract visitors,) obtained many temperance pledges, persuaded more than a hundred persons to attend on the preaching of the gospel, and many hopeful conversions are reported, 22 of whom are known to have united with evangelical churches.

Another of our missionaries, who occupies a field containing 4060 families, with eighty tract visitors, reports 41,470 tracts distributed, held 520 prayer meetings, supplied 38 destitute families with the Bible, 178 children engaged for the Sabbath-school, 104 persons as having signed the temperance pledge, and 26 hopeful conversions, two of whom have been called away from earth, to join, as we hope, the redeemed above.

While visiting in our district this month, says two visitors, we learned the death of a young lady for whom we had felt a special interest, and with whom we had many serious conversations. She had been for some time deeply concerned about her soul; and previous to her death, the Lord was pleased to grant her (what she so anxiously sought) a sweet sense of his forgiving love, so that she was able to depart in the hope of a happier world.

Another reports the case of a lady, who, when first visited, refused the tract and left the visitor alone in the entry, but after reflecting on the kindness of the visitor, and how ill she had been requited, she found no rest until she attended the prayer meetings and obtained a hope in Christ.

A visitor says: I have had several interviews with a family in my district, which has resulted in the hopeful conversion of the mother and the awakening of one of the sons.

Another visitor states, that the two individuals, alluded to in a former report, as being under serious exercise of mind, now give very good evidence of a change of heart.

One case is mentioned of a person who had been anxious for her soul's salvation for a length of time, but who was left to stifle her convictions, by going into worldly company and neglecting the sanctuary of God. The tract for last month, "Do you want a Friend," was blessed to the awakening of her again, to feel deeply her guilt and danger.

A visiter, who has occupied her district for five or six years, says: I am in the habit of visiting some part of my district every week, and have this month met with much to cheer me onward in my work. An interesting woman, who always receives the tract very thankfully, and has long attended our meetings, gives increased evidence of true piety. Her intemperate husband, in answer to her many prayers, has been prevailed upon to forsake his cups, and now attends stately on the means of grace, and manifests much contrition for his past course of life.

Another visiter says: I had a long conversation with some Roman Catholics about praying to saints, &c., but all to very little purpose; they belonged to the only true church, and in their estimation that was enough for them.

Another visiter says: It is with heartfelt gratitude to God, that I have the privilege to report another hopeful conversion in my district, of one who a few months since was an intemperate drinker, a profane swearer and Sabbath-breaker, but how wonderfully has the grace of God changed this man! Instead of being a slave to the most horrible wickedness, he appears a sincere and humble follower of the meek and lowly Saviour. His chief delight now is to be found in the house of God, instead of spending his time at the dram shop and among the profane.

Another case is mentioned of one who had long been an incorrigible infidel, but who has been led to renounce his infidel principles, and is now an anxious inquirer after the truth.

One of the missionaries states, that not long since, he was called up in the middle of the night, to visit a woman who was thought to be dying. On his arrival at the house, he found it was a family where he had several times called, but they had always refused to converse on the subject of religion, or even to allow their children to attend the Sabbath-school; but now the scene was changed. As soon as the poor woman saw me, she cried out, "O, sir, it is too late, I am afraid I am lost forever." I endeavoured to impart to her such instruction as suited her case. Early in the morning I visited her again, and found her in the same awful distress of mind, and thus she continued several days. I left a tract, which one of

the family read to her, after which her mind became calm, and she seemed to have a new view of her situation, and her great concern was, that she had been sinning so long against such a merciful and gracious Being.

A young woman who became awakened at one of our prayer meetings some weeks ago, has since obtained a hope, but her ungodly uncle, who had adopted her as his child and heir, threatens to disinherit her if she makes a profession of religion. She has, however, determined, in the strength of Christ, so to do, on the next Sabbath.

Another case of a young lady is reported, who had been brought up in easy circumstances, and in a circle where religion was fashionable. She had been induced some time since to make a profession of religion, without knowing any thing about a change of heart. She says *it was the deep feeling* manifested by the tract visiter, for the salvation of others, that led her to fear that all was not right with her. She has attended our meetings of late, and it would seem that the Spirit of God had commenced a work of grace upon her heart. She has offered her services as a tract visiter, and seems willing to take up the cross and follow the Saviour.

Many other cases might be cited did time permit. But these facts may serve to strengthen our faith and encourage our hearts in this good cause. They add fresh testimony to the usefulness of tract distribution. And while God manifests his willingness to bless every sincere effort, will not the hearts of his people receive a fresh impulse, and exert anew their efforts and their prayers?

Does the tract visiter need encouragement? He may have it abundantly. The cause in which he is engaged is the cause of God. Patriarchs and prophets loved it, and laboured for it while on earth. Apostles and martyrs, and the Son of God, laid down their lives for the love they bear it.

The tract visiter does a work more lasting than time. Its history will be written in the annals of eternity. The Spirit of God will engrave it on the tablets of immortal minds, which will endure when the heavens and the earth shall be no more.

Volume Circulation.

This enterprise is exciting a deeper and wider interest in the churches, north and south, east and west, as one fraught with incalculable blessings to the souls of men. God has distinctly and strongly marked it with his approbation. From the report of the Parent Society, we learn that 300,000 volumes of its publications have been put in circulation during the past year. Of this number about 25,000 volumes have been sold in western Pennsylvania by the agents of that society, one of whom is now employed with encouraging success in middle Pennsylvania.

About 9000 volumes have been put in circulation in Philadelphia and its neighbourhood. But what are these few volumes among so many? Many thousand volumes are needed to supply the wants of this great community.

“This Society acknowledges the claims of the foreign field on their efforts and their prayers. We would never forget the command of the Saviour, ‘Go teach all nations,’ nor our obligations to obey it to the utmost of our ability. We deeply lament our inability to respond to the calls which come to us on the wings of every wind from Pagan and unevangelized lands.”

May the Lord incline the hearts of his people to redouble their diligence and their efforts till the knowledge of his name shall fill the earth.

Dr. *Philadelphia Tract Society, in account current with D. W. Prescott, Treasurer.*

Cr.

| 1839. Sep. 24 | | 1839. Sep. 24 | |
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| Balance due Treasurer last report, | \$ 22 95 | By Collections, Subscriptions, and Donations, for the year ending this day, | \$3438 25 |
| To amount paid to the American Tract Society for books, tracts, &c. | 2867 99 | Sales at the Depository, | 2314 23 |
| “ salaries of Missionaries, Agent, and Boy, | 2224 88 | Amount borrowed, | 600 00 |
| “ bills for incidental expenses, includ- ing freight, books, paper, printing and stationery, | 834 76 | | |
| “ Rent of Depository, | 131 25 | | |
| “ Payment of loan, | 200 00 | | |
| Balance to new account, | 70 65 | | |
| | <u>\$6352 48</u> | Balance in hands of the Treasurer, | <u>\$70 63</u> |
| | | | \$6352 48 |

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

TO THE

PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY,*From Sept. 20, 1838, to Sept. 20, 1839.*

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------|--------|
| Elisha Wells | \$ 50 00 | Mrs. Mary P. Moore | \$5 00 |
| William Dulty | 10 00 | Thomas Allibone | 2 00 |
| Mrs. Falconer | 10 00 | Samuel Allibone | 1 00 |
| William Darling | 20 00 | Mrs. Wetherel | 1 00 |
| Winthrop Sargent | 10 00 | Oliver Brooks | 5 00 |
| Rev. W. H. Bidwell | 20 00 | L. Lewis | 10 00 |
| Rev. N. Dodge | 7 00 | E. S. Whelen | 10 00 |
| Solomon Alter | 5 00 | John Andrews | 2 00 |
| Edward Sprague | 3 00 | G. W. Morris | 5 00 |
| Mrs. Carswell | 25 00 | Alexander Henry | 50 00 |
| John Lapsley | 50 00 | Michael Read | 10 00 |
| Dr. Wm. Shippen | 45 00 | John Harned | 5 00 |
| Charles S. Wurts | 25 00 | David Lapsley | 10 00 |
| A. H. Perkins | 25 00 | J. W. Throckmorton | 50 00 |
| Mrs. Hodge | 3 00 | Rev. J. C. How | 15 00 |
| John Alexander | 10 00 | Samuel Davis | 10 00 |
| James Peters | 10 00 | J. W. Gibbs | 5 00 |
| Charles Collins | 20 00 | James M. Aertsen | 5 00 |
| Capt. H. Lelar | 10 00 | John C. Farr | 5 00 |
| William Curran | 30 00 | Miss Jane Miller | 15 00 |
| Thomas Elmes | 100 00 | Dr. Samuel M'Culloh | 5 00 |
| Paul Beck, Jr. | 20 00 | Robert S. Clark | 15 00 |
| Wm. N. Atwood | 2 40 | S. H. Perkins | 5 00 |
| Miss M. A. S. | 20 00 | R. W. Davenport | 10 00 |
| Clement Cresson | 5 00 | S. Eldridge | 5 00 |
| James Smith | 10 00 | Samuel Richards | 5 00 |
| Isaac Dunton | 50 00 | Otis Amidon | 5 00 |
| Dr. J. M. Paul | 150 00 | John Eckel | 20 00 |
| Isaac Ashmead | 20 00 | Mrs. Whitehead | 30 00 |
| G. W. Fobes | 50 00 | Wm. Raguel | 10 00 |
| James Field | 25 00 | Dr. Wm. Ashmead | 5 00 |
| W. E. Tenbroek | 10 00 | Dr. Wm. Harris | 5 00 |
| Abraham Martin | 5 00 | John S. Halloway | 3 00 |
| A. R. Burtis | 5 00 | Mrs. E. Stott | 5 00 |
| A. Flint | 20 00 | Charles Clarkson | 5 00 |
| Thomas Earp | 20 00 | M. B. Denman | 10 00 |
| Gideon Burton | 10 00 | Charles M'Intire | 25 00 |
| A. G. Coffin | 2 00 | Isaac R. Smith | 5 00 |
| Wm. Purves | 60 00 | A. G. Miller | 5 00 |
| Alexander Symington | 20 00 | Robert Earp | 50 00 |

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|---------------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|
| James R. Campbell | \$5 00 | Mrs. Ralston | \$5 00 |
| Jacob Sellers | 5 00 | James Atwood | 10 00 |
| Rev. C. H. Alden | 5 00 | John M. Atwood | 10 00 |
| Edwin Booth | 5 00 | Thomas Harris | 5 00 |
| W. M. Hurlbut | 2 00 | Thomas Roney | 1 00 |
| D. P. Alden | 5 00 | A. Fassit | 2 00 |
| S. Withington | 2 00 | Wilson Dunton | 1 00 |
| James Bruen | 25 00 | Jacob Dunton, Jr. | 5 00 |
| Wm. Worrell | 1 00 | Miss Little | 2 00 |
| Capt. T. Rodgers | 20 00 | Mrs. Logan | 1 00 |
| Samuel N. Davis | 20 00 | M. Kripps | 5 00 |
| Miss Smith | 1 00 | Robert Jarden | 5 00 |
| J. C. | 1 00 | J. M. Arther | 2 50 |
| James Hunt | 5 00 | Jacob R. Eckfeldt | 5 00 |
| W. Raguel | 15 00 | E. F. Backus | 10 00 |
| R. Boyd | 5 00 | Robert Patterson | 5 00 |
| Thomas Fleming | 50 00 | N. Burt | 5 00 |
| Wm. Wurts | 20 00 | J. M. Van Harlingen | 20 00 |
| John A. Brown | 10 00 | E. J. Yard | 2 00 |
| Alexander Fullerton | 10 00 | George Handy | 5 00 |
| James Fassit | 5 00 | L. Harwood | 50 00 |
| B. W. Richards | 5 00 | Dr. M. B. Smith | 20 00 |
| Martha Collins | 20 00 | Charles Bird | 10 00 |
| C. Tingley | 10 00 | L. Moore | 1 00 |
| B. W. Tingley | 5 00 | F. D. Sherman | 5 00 |
| Jacob Dunton | 5 00 | E. Safford | 2 00 |
| F. M. Mitchell | 5 00 | Samuel Asbury | 5 00 |
| T. Biddle | 10 00 | G. W. Toland | 5 00 |
| Washington Jackson | 2 00 | Miss A. H. | 10 00 |
| E. A. Holmes | 3 00 | Miss Ann Reynolds | 5 00 |
| James Bryan | 2 00 | Dr. W. W. Perrine | 5 00 |
| A. P. Wurts | 5 00 | Charles F. Diver | 20 00 |
| J. E. Brown | 2 00 | Dr. Gebhard | 10 00 |
| Robert Creighton | 5 00 | R. L. Barns | 5 00 |
| H. J. Williams | 5 00 | J. L. Goddard | 10 00 |
| Wm. Davison | 3 00 | J. W. Tilford | 3 00 |
| E. Hazard | 5 00 | Joseph Patterson | 20 00 |
| Robert C. Davison | 2 00 | Matthew Newkirk | 10 00 |
| Mrs. T. Fassitt | 5 00 | Rev. G. A. Clark | 5 00 |
| Quintin Campbell | 5 00 | J. V. Cowell | 5 00 |
| J. Philler | 1 00 | James Hunt | 5 00 |
| Joseph P. Lapsley | 5 00 | P. H. Cassady | 2 00 |
| Martin Thayer | 25 00 | J. M. Harper | 5 00 |
| George Burgin | 5 00 | John M'Clure | 5 00 |
| John Farr | 10 00 | Charles Robb | 10 00 |
| Andrew Fenton | 5 00 | J. C. Farr | 5 00 |
| James Crowell | 2 00 | Robert Coburne | 5 00 |
| S. E. Harlan | 1 00 | Wilmore Whilden | 5 00 |
| J. O. Ewing | 5 00 | James R. Webb | 5 00 |
| E. F. Wayne | 50 | Levi Eldridge | 5 00 |
| B. P. Hutchinson | 1 00 | H. Perkins | 10 00 |
| Miss M. A. Smith | 1 00 | C. Williams | 4 00 |
| J. C. Negus | 5 00 | Mrs. M'Clure | 5 00 |
| Rev. J. H. Jones | 15 00 | Cash from several individuals | 20 50 |
| Dr. H. Neill | 5 00 | Female Society of Grace | |
| Mrs. Blain | 5 00 | church | 25 00 |

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| Sunday School Society of Western Presby. church, to constitute their Pastor a Life Member | \$20 00 | Youthis' Tract Society | \$25 00 |
| Female Tract Society of 6th Presby. church | 16 50 | Female Tract Society of the 1st Presby. church | 203 78 |
| Tract Society of the Crown street church | 64 75 | Sunday School 1st Congregational church, to constitute their Pastor and Mrs. T. Life Members | 40 00 |
| Female Tract Society of the 10th Presby. church | 73 00 | Collection in the 5th Pres. church | 18 77 |
| Ladies of the 1st Presby. church, N. L. | 11 00 | Young Men's Association of the 1st Presby. church | 286 67 |
| Female Tract Society of 3rd Presby. church | 32 50 | Collection in the 11th Pres. church | 87 70 |
| Female Tract Society of the Central Presby. church | 100 00 | Legacy left by Elizabeth Bursell | 10 00 |
| Collection in the 3rd Dutch Reformed Church | 21 12 | From several Societies and individuals to aid in the Foreign distribution | 247 00 |

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be denominated the PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY, Auxiliary to the American Tract Society. Its object shall be to promote the interests of evangelical religion and sound morality through the medium of religious Tracts.

ART. 2. Any person contributing annually, not less than one dollar to the funds of this Society, shall be a member, and entitled to vote at all meetings of the same.

ART. 3. The Society shall meet annually, on the last Tuesday in September, when the proceedings of the foregoing year shall be reported, and a Board, consisting of a President, Vice Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and forty-five Directors, shall be elected to conduct the business of the Society. The Board shall have power to call special meetings of the Society. The officers of the Society shall be members of the Board, *ex-officio*.

ART. 4. This Society shall adopt the Tracts of the American Tract Society.

ART. 5. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to conduct the correspondence of the Society and Board, and prepare the Annual Report.

ART. 6. The Recording Secretary shall keep correct minutes of the proceedings of the Society and Board. Shall notify the members of the meetings, and attend to all other business belonging to the office.

ART. 7. The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Society, keep a list of the contributors, pay all bills of expense incurred by the Board, on the order of the Executive Committee, and report the state of the treasury at each stated and annual meeting.

ART. 8. The Board shall annually elect from their own number, an Executive Committee, consisting of seven members, to conduct the business of the Society, during the recess of the Board.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be ex-officio a member of this Committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. 9. The Board shall have power to appropriate the funds of the Society to the purchase of Tracts, either for a depository, with the necessary expenses of sustaining the same, or in a stated and systematic general Tract distribution, or otherwise, and shall have authority to make donations to the Parent Society.

ART. 10. The Board shall meet at least once a month. They shall have power to fill their own vacancies, to enact their own By-Laws, shall adopt measures for promoting the objects of the Society, by appointing committees, and by their own personal exertion discharge, as far as practicable, the business of the Society. They shall report their proceedings at each meeting of the Society; five members shall constitute a quorum. Any member absenting himself for four successive meetings of the Board, without assigning some reason therefor, shall be considered as having vacated his seat in the Board.

ART. 11. Societies may become auxiliary to this institution, by annually contributing a donation from their funds to the treasury of this Society, and sending a copy of their Constitution and list of officers. They shall be entitled to a representation in the Board.

ART. 12. All meetings of the Society, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ART. 13. The President, (or in his absence, any one of the Vice Presidents,) at the request of three Directors, shall call special meetings of the Board.

ART. 14. This Constitution shall not be altered, unless by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at an annual meeting, or at a regular meeting called for the purpose.

BY-LAWS.

1. At meetings of the Board, the following shall be the order of business:—Reading the minutes of the last meeting; Unfinished business; Reports of Executive, Standing, and other Committees; Corresponding Secretary's Report; Treasurer's Report; new business.

2. That in addition to the Executive Committee, the following shall be Standing Committees of the Board:—Committee on Monthly Distribution, Shipping, &c., on the Delaware; Canal Boats, &c., on the Schuylkill; Prisons and Humane Institutions.

3. Each of the Standing Committees shall keep a book of minutes of their proceedings, in a permanent form, the reading of which shall constitute essentially their Report to the Board.

4. Tracts for the use of the several Standing Committees shall be drawn from the Depository of the Philadelphia Tract Society, by order of their respective chairman, who shall keep an accurate account thereof, and report at the stated meetings of the Board.

5. The stated meetings of the Board shall be on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

6. It is recommended, that the meetings of the several committees from the Board be opened by prayer.

7. No Tracts shall be delivered for distribution to any committee, unless they agree to make regular reports to the Board.

8. The several Standing Committees are authorized to call in the aid of other individuals, so far as they find necessary, for the discharge of the duties assigned them.

9. These By-Laws shall not be altered or amended without the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the members present at a stated meeting.

Meetings of the Society, the Board, Committees, &c.

Annual Meeting of the Society, on the fourth Tuesday evening in September.

Meeting of the Board, on the fourth Tuesday evening in every month.

Meeting of the Executive Committee, every Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock.

Meetings of the other Committees, at the call of their respective Chairmen.

Tract Visitors' Prayer Meetings, on the last Monday evening in every month.

All of which it is important should be attended, *but in no case should the Prayer Meeting be forgotten or neglected.*

DIRECTIONS TO TRACT VISITERS.

1. Set apart a season of special prayer, longer or shorter, as circumstances will allow, and your own state of mind may require. Look up to God for *grace*, that you may be filled with holy love to himself, and tender compassion for your fellow men; that you may richly feel the preciousness of the Saviour in your own heart, and your infinite obligations for redeeming love. Look up for *light*, that you may have clear views of divine things, and wisdom to direct in all the circumstances in which you may be placed. Pray for those who are to be the objects of your benevolent efforts, that their hearts may be prepared to receive the messages of truth, and yield to the claims of the Gospel. And be not willing to leave the throne of grace till you feel sensibly quickened, and have some good evidence that God has heard your cry.

2. Go from your closet to your district. There you will make it your first business to *become acquainted* with the families and individuals of

which it is composed. Your inquiries will be these: What is their moral and religious character? Are they members of any evangelical church? Have they children? If so, do they attend the Sabbath or week-day school? Have they a Bible? Are they members of the Temperance Society? Are they in pecuniary distress? Especially, are they willing to have you call from month to month on your errand of mercy as a Tract labourer? The answer to these, and similar questions, will give you the information that you need, and enable you to adapt your efforts accordingly. Not that these questions are to be directly and formally put: you will need to use much discretion in eliciting their answers. And, in all cases, it should be done with such delicacy and evident tokens of kindness, as to give no just occasion of offence. If you are received kindly, the way is opened for you to call again. If, after suitable explanations of the objects of your visits, and efforts to convince the family of the value of the Tracts, they decline receiving them, quietly retire—use your discretion about calling again. It not unfrequently happens, that families who have refused Tracts, are subsequently willing to receive them. But, while none are to be excluded, to whom access can be gained, or who wish to share the benefit of your labours, *the neglected, the destitute, the perishing*, should be peculiarly the objects of your care.

3. Should you meet with unkind treatment, which in some instances you may, manifest no angry feelings. Endeavour to exhibit the spirit of your Master, “in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.” The observance of this direction is of special importance when you meet with those who deny the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel, and cavil at the most sacred truths of the Bible. It is of very little use, generally, to dispute with such persons. The simple truths of the Gospel, presented in the mild and persuasive accents of love, will be your most hopeful weapon.

4. It is essential that distributors should be *punctual* in attending the monthly meeting for prayer and consultation. The life of the whole system depends almost upon this. No one who neglects these meetings will long take an interest in the work, and none who regularly and punctually attend them, we think, can fail to be benefited. We are social beings, and necessarily act upon each other. By mutual sympathy, we impart and receive each other’s feelings, and in a cause of such infinite importance, we can scarcely meet together too often. By mingling our counsels, and pouring out our united prayers, we not only gain new light and warmth to ourselves, but call down the richest blessings upon the objects of our benevolence.

5. Finally. Be much in prayer. Endeavour to feel, habitually and deeply, that all your efforts will be in vain, unless accompanied by the Holy Spirit. And this blessing you can expect only in answer to prayer. Pray, therefore, without ceasing. Go from your closet to your work, and from your work return again to the closet.